Mountain Weather Forecast

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 06:00 on Thursday 12 Jan 2023 until 23:59 on Friday 13 Jan 2023

Forecast Issued on Thursday 12 Jan 2023 at 03:44

Confidence: High for unsettled for much of the period, also for turning to a colder more sheltered northerly for Monday, but lowering confidence for detail of timing and intensity of worst of weather due to the mobile nature of the westerly flow prior to Monday's northerly.

Headline for Thursday 12 Jan 2023: Unsettled and turning very windy at height. Snow across higher peaks later in day.

Mountain weather hazards on Thursday 12 Jan 2023

Blizzards No Likelihood	**Heavy persistent snow** No Likelihood	**Storm force winds** Low Likelihood
Gales Medium Likelihood	**Severe chill effect** Medium Likelihood	**Poor visibility** Medium Likelihood
Thunderstorms No Likelihood	**Heavy persistent rain** No Likelihood	**Strong sunlight** No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m					
Time					
06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Cloudy	Light rain	Light rain showers	Sleet showers	Sleet showers (night)	Sleet showers (night)
Precipitation probability					
20%	60%	50%	40%	40%	40%

Forecast for Thursday 12 Jan 2023

Weather: Dull start with patchy light rain, but largely dry from mid-morning with some limited brighter spells appearing late morning. Mix of sunshine and showers for the afternoon with outbreaks heavy at times, particularly across western areas of the Park, also turning wintry above 700m from late afternoon. Showers merging to longer periods of occasionally heavy rain and summit snow during the evening.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 10% at first becoming 70% late morning, 50% for the afternoon then 10% during evening

Low cloud and visibility: Good becoming moderate or poor in rain, very poor in snow and within cloud with bases extensive down to 500m at first, infrequently so late morning, occasionally for the afternoon and extensive again during evening.

Check our weather forecast every day to get the most accurate and up to date information
http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/mountain-forecast
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Mountain Weather Forecast

Forecast for Thursday 12 Jan 2023

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph) Wind Direction (blowing from)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	27/32 SW	43/51 SW	46/58 SW	48/62 SW	54/69 SW	59/77 SW	51/66 W
600	21/26 SW	36/46 SW	37/50 SW	38/54 SW	44/61 SW	48/68 SW	41/59 W
300	4/20 SW	12/33 SW	13/40 SW	16/43 SW	18/48 SW	21/54 SW	19/48 W
Valley	1/13 SW	9/29 SW	14/37 SW	17/41 SW	21/47 SW	23/53 SW	22/48 W

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	1/-6	4/-4	2/-7	0/-9	-0/-11	-0/-11	0/-9
600	3/-3	5/-1	4/-3	3/-5	2/-6	2/-7	2/-6
300	4/3	7/4	7/3	5/1	5/-0	4/-1	5/-0
Valley	6/5	8/6	9/6	8/4	7/3	7/2	7/2
Freezing Level*	1400m	1400m	1000m	800m	800m	900m	1000m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Meteorologist's View

Difficult conditions early with quite extensive hill fog, also later as severe gales and snow develop with height.

Forecast for Friday 13 Jan 2023

Weather: An unsettled, generally cloudy and showery day with snow largely confined from 600m and above. Showers occasionally heavy and potentially merging to longer periods of rain and summit snow at times, particularly early morning and during the evening. Gale to severe gale summit winds at first.

Maximum wind: West or southwest initially mean 35-40mph with gusts reaching 50-60mph across most exposed ridges and summits. Winds easing gradually through the day.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 60% for any one time, but very low for extended periods given the showery nature of the flow.

Low cloud and visibility: Good becoming moderate or poor in rain, very poor in snow and within cloud with bases occasionally lowering to 500m

Temperature: **Valleys:** Plus 2 Celsius increasing 8 Celsius during the afternoon
At 800m: Zero or Minus 1 Celsius
Freezing level: 700-800m

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Ground Conditions Supplement

Date: Wednesday 11 January 2023. Location: Helvellyn summit at 13:21 Full report: A dry start to the day with rain, sleet, and hill snow pushing into the area by mid-morning. Although windy, it wasn't quite as windy as some forecasts were suggesting. The ground is saturated and many streams and rivers are in spate following yesterday's heavy rain. The freezing level this morning was around summit level, however, it lowered during the day and accompanied by fairly heavy snowfall, it began to settle down to roughly 600m by mid-afternoon. All the snow encountered today was soft and wet and although depth generally increases with height, it varies from a couple of centimeters over high and exposed ground to boot/calf deep in more sheltered areas. The greatest accumulations of snow are to be found on north and east-facing slopes above 800m. Soft and unstable cornices are present around corrie rims in these locations and were actively building today. Windslab is also present along ridge flanks. Striding and Swirral edge are in full winter condition and a steep bank of snow exists on the exit slopes. Freezing temperatures overnight are likely to freeze today's wet snow, meaning that it may be hard and icy tomorrow. Any overnight precipitation is also likely to continue to fall as snow over high ground, therefore, there may well be more snow tomorrow than described here. Wind-driven snow over Helvellyn's summit plateau today meant that goggles were extremely useful for comfort, route-finding, and navigating safely. It's also worth noting that the windchill (feels-like) temperature was around -10ºC today, and anyone standing still even for short periods of time would get very cold very quickly. More Upland gales (up to 70mph) and further rain and hill snow are forecast tomorrow along with a dramatically fluctuating freezing level. Anyone venturing out tomorrow should anticipate and be prepared for very challenging conditions. Full winter clothing (warm and waterproof) including hats and gloves, a map, compass, and headtorch are all essential. For anyone considering steep and exposed routes above the snowline, an ice axe and crampons and microspikes are also essential and, as previously mentioned, goggles are highly recommended! Temperature: minus 0.3 C, Maximum wind speed 35.7 mph, Wind chill: minus 10.2 C, Average wind speed: 31.9 mph

Issued at: 03:44 on Thu 12 Jan 2023

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